Staff Memorandum

To	Mayor A. Nuttall, Deputy Mayor R. Thomson and Members of Council
Subject	"Bring-Your-Own" Alcohol Legislation Changes
Date	April 29, 2026
Ward	All
From	K. Datema, Director of Recreation and Culture Services
Executive Member Approval	J. Schmidt, General Manager of Community and Corporate Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification on the Province of Ontario's expanded Tailgate Permit to include "Bring-Your-Own" alcoholic beverage permits for outdoor public events and to outline how this update interacts with the City of Barrie's existing by-laws and event permitting process.

Overview

Effective April 30th, 2026, the Province of Ontario expanded the Tailgate Event Special Occasions Permit to include municipally designated cultural or community events. Event organizers must still obtain this new "Bring-Your-Own" designation by securing a Special Occasions Permit through the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, by meeting the definition outlined in O. Reg. 747/21. At these events, individuals may purchase, bring and consume alcohol within the permitted area. There are two types of bring-your-own permits, depending on whether alcohol will be sold and served at the event or not:

A "no-sale" bring-your-own permit authorizes the permit holder to allow attendees 19 years of age or older to bring their own liquor for consumption at the event, within the permitted area. This permit does not allow the permit holder to sell and serve liquor purchased at the event.

A "sale" bring-your-own permit authorizes the permit holder to sell and serve liquor purchased under the permit at the event. Attendees 19 years of age or older are still allowed to bring their own liquor for consumption at the event, within the permitted area.

Under the updated tailgate/bring-your-own permit, events may either be:

- held in connection with and in proximity to a professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting event (i.e. tailgate); or
- **new** a cultural or community event that has been designated by a municipal council or its delegate.

City of Barrie Context

The City of Barrie already regulates alcohol consumption in parks and other municipal outdoor spaces through the Parks Use By-Law (2019-059). Under this by-law, the possession or consumption of alcohol remains prohibited unless expressly authorized within an executed Special Events Permit. The changes to the Tailgate Permit to include “Bring-Your-Own", does not change the event permitting process. In order for permitted events to sell or allow the consumption of alcohol on City property, the following is still required:

- An **approved City Special Events Permit;** ensuring adherence to municipal approvals and alcohol policies and by-laws.
- An **approved AGCO Special Occasion Permit (SOP)**, which may now include a bring-your-own event permit where applicable.

Summary
The province’s expanded “Bring-Your-Own" permit introduces an additional licensing option, but does not change the City’s existing authority, by-laws, or event permitting framework. Alcohol consumption in parks and at outdoor event spaces remains prohibited unless properly authorized through an approved City of Barrie Special Events Permit.

Appendix:

Appendix A – Province of Ontario News Release
Appendix B – O. Reg. 1/26: PERMITS

Memo Author:

L. Andrew, Manager of Culture, Venue & Special Events

File #:

N/A

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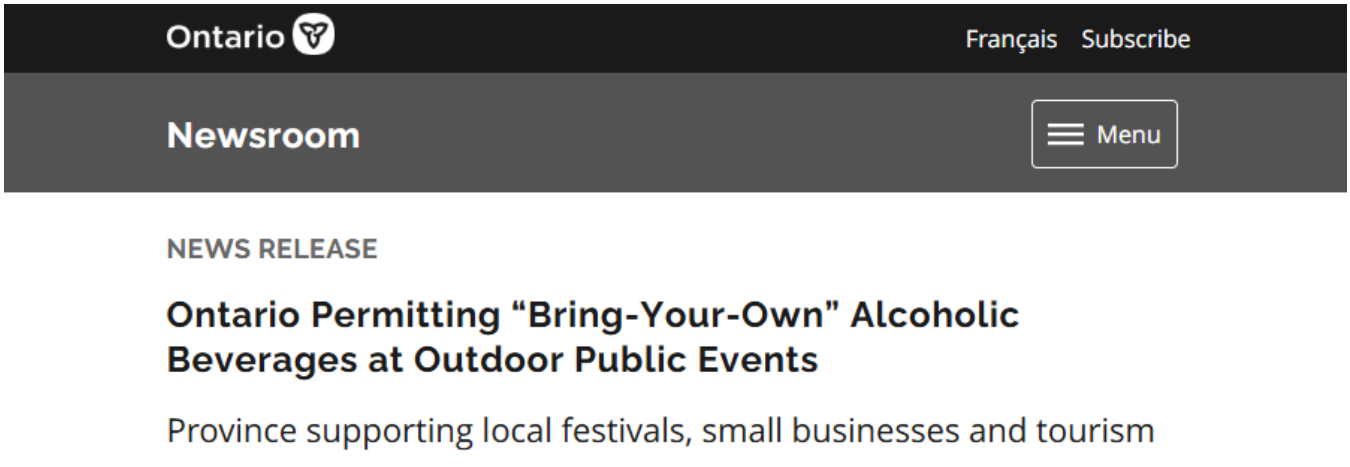
Appendix A – Province of Ontario News Release



“Starting this spring, Ontario is giving communities more flexibility to safely and responsibly enjoy cultural and outdoor events,” said Attorney General Doug Downey. “The ‘bring-your-own’ event permits will help save attendees money, lower overhead costs for event organizers and contribute to local economies.”

Municipalities will be required to pass a bylaw authorizing the use of alcohol in public, if they do not already have one in place, and establish a local process that would determine whether an event qualifies as community or cultural. Starting April 30, 2026, event organizers in participating municipalities will be able to apply for bring-your-own permits through the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO).

“Our government is always working to find new ways to empower local communities, boost economic activity and increase tourism,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “By giving Ontario municipalities the choice to make use of this new initiative, our government is directly contributing to their economic well-being while ensuring adults can continue to safely and responsibly enjoy their favourite products.”

Appendix B – O. Reg. 1/26: PERMITS

ONTARIO REGULATION 1/26

made under the

LIQUOR LICENCE AND CONTROL ACT, 2019

Made: December 11, 2025
Filed: January 5, 2026
Published on e-Laws: January 5, 2026
Published in *The Ontario Gazette*: January 24, 2026

Amending O. Reg. 747/21

(PERMITS)

1. (1) Subsection 1 (1) of Ontario Regulation 747/21 is amended by adding the following definition:

"bring-your-own event" means a public event that is held at an outdoor premises that is at ground level,

(a) where the event,

(i) is held in connection with and in proximity to a professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting

event, or

(ii) has been designated by a municipal council or its delegate as a cultural or community event, and

(b) at which individuals may possess and consume liquor brought to the premises by attendees; ("fête «apportez à boire»")

(2) The definition of "tailgate event" in subsection 1 (1) of the Regulation is revoked.

(3) Section 1 of the Regulation is amended by adding the following subsection:

(3) For the purposes of subclause (a) (ii) of the definition of "bring-your-own event" in subsection (1), nothing in this Regulation shall be read as requiring a municipal council or its delegate to designate an event as a cultural or community event, or as requiring or otherwise providing for procedures in respect of such a designation.

2. Paragraph 5 of section 2 of the Regulation is revoked and the following substituted:

5. A public event that,

i. is of provincial, national or international significance, or

ii. has been designated by a municipal council or its delegate as an event of municipal significance.

3. Subsection 10 (4) of the Regulation is revoked and the following substituted:

(4) The applicant shall submit the following documents, as applicable, together with the application:

1. A copy of every notice given under subsection (2).

2. In the case of an application respecting a bring-your-own event or other public event that is contingent on a designation of a municipal council or its delegate, proof of the designation.

4. Subsection 18 (3) of the Regulation is revoked and the following substituted:

(3) The holder of a sale bring-your-own permit or no-sale bring-your-own permit shall not allow an attendee who has brought liquor to the permitted premises as provided for under subsection 17 (4) to remove any of the liquor from the premises when the attendee departs, except in the following circumstances:

1. The attendee is departing in a motor vehicle other than a form of public transportation, but only if the liquor is,

i. in a sealed and unopened container, or

ii. packed in baggage that is fastened closed or not otherwise readily available to any person in the motor vehicle.

2. The permitted premises is within or adjacent to a public place in which the possession and consumption of liquor are permitted under clause 41 (1) (d) of the Act, and the attendee is departing to that public place.

3. Any other circumstance, if the liquor is in a securely closed container.

5. The Regulation is amended by striking out "tailgate" wherever it appears and substituting in each case "bring-your-own".

Commencement

6. This Regulation comes into force on April 30, 2026.